

RECORD OF TELEPHONIC INTERVIEW

On 1/19/2006, the Primary Examiner and Applicants' representative discussed proposed amendments to the Claims. The Primary Examiner indicated that her interpretation of the "evaluating" element Claim 1 extended to present/not-present determinations of defects in conformity with the detection of any linearity change. Applicants' representative indicated that further amendment would be made to clarify the claims accordingly.

REMARKS

1. Objections to the Drawings

The Primary Examiner has objected to the drawings as having a reference designator not mentioned in the specification. The specification has been amended to include the reference designator. Therefore, Applicants believe that the objections to the drawings have been overcome.

2. Objections to the Disclosure

The Primary Examiner has objected to the disclosure as containing an informality in the form of an incorrect reference designator. The specification has been amended to correct the reference designator. Therefore, applicants believe that the objections to the disclosure have been overcome.

3. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(a)

The Primary Examiner has rejected Claims 1, 6-8, 13-15 and 20-21 under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as being anticipated by Vogels, "Effectiveness of I-V Testing in Comparison to IDDQ Tests", and Claims 1, 8 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Linsenger, et al., "Short High Voltage Stress for Design-to-Process Characterization". The Primary Examiner has also indicated that Claims 2-5, 9-12 and 16-19 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all limitations of the base and intervening claims.

Applicants have amended Claim 1 to include features similar to those recited in previous Claim 2, which has been canceled. Similarly, applicants have amended Claim 8 to include the features recited in previous Claim 9, which has been canceled and applicants have amended Claim 15 to include the features recited in previous Claim 16, which has been canceled.

However, in light of the above-documented telephonic interview and because the language of Amended Claims 1, 8 and 15 differ from the exact language of previous Claims 2, 9 and 16, Applicants wish to point out how the subject matter of the independent Claims differ from that of the prior art.

Claim 1 (and similarly claims 8 and 15) recites:

"detecting a change in linearity of said plurality of power-plane current values with respect to said power-plane voltages;
determining a particular power-plane voltage above which said detecting detects that

said plurality of power-plane current values are linear with respect to said power plane voltages; and

evaluating a level of severity of said shorting defect, wherein said level is determined in conformity with a value of said particular power-plane voltage."

Vogels discloses only that the shape of the current versus voltage curve varies for defective parts and does not disclose a methodology for evaluating a level of severity of a defect from current versus voltage data.

Linseker likewise only describes measurement of a different in linear slope to detect a defect and not determination of a level of severity of a defect determined in conformity with detecting a change in linearity, determining a particular voltage above which the current/voltage relationship is linear and evaluating a level of severity of a defect in conformity with the particular voltage.

Therefore, Applicants believe that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102 have been overcome.

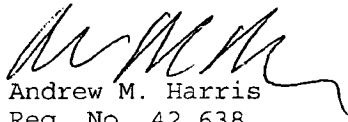
Therefore, Applicants believe that all of the rejections and objections in the Office Action have been overcome.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, Applicants respectfully submit that this Amendment, in view of the Remarks offered in conjunction therewith, are fully responsive to all aspects of the objections and rejections tendered by the Primary Examiner in the Office Action. Applicants respectfully submit that they have persuasively demonstrated that the above-identified Patent Application, including Claims 1, 3-8, 10-15 and 17-21 are in condition for allowance. Such action is earnestly solicited.

No additional fees should be incurred by this Amendment. However, If there are any fees incurred by this Amendment Letter, please deduct them from IBM Deposit Account NO. 09-0447.

Respectfully submitted,


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